

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. Pusher for scraper chain conveyors, especially of the kind used in underground mining, comprising an upper member  $[(15)]$  and a therewith connectable lower member  $[(16)]$ , said two members being connectable by means of a bolted connection, each member of said pusher featuring one part of one or more chain beds  $(11, 12)$  through which a flat jointing plane runs, as well as one part of the recesses provided for the bolts  $[(19)]$  of the bolted connection and located to the outside of the chain bed  $(11, 12)$ , the upper member  $[(15)]$  and the lower member  $[(16)]$  embracing each other at least partially, and the upper member  $[(15)]$  being configured as a bow-like bridge element that wraps over both ends of the lower member from above, the two ends  $[(22)]$  of the bridge-like upper member  $[(15)]$  being of cuneiform shape and having upper and lower guide surfaces  $(24, 25)$  sloping towards each other in V-formation, and the upper member  $[(15)]$  and the lower member  $[(16)]$  engaging each other at each end by means of nose-like centering projections  $[(17)]$  on the upper member or the lower member, said projections engaging complementary recesses in the contact surfaces of the lower member  $[(16)]$  or the upper member  $[(15)]$ , **characterized in that** wherein supporting surfaces  $[(42)]$  are provided between the upper member  $[(15)]$  and the lower member  $[(16)]$ , said supporting surfaces effecting a gap between the upper member and the lower member, at least in the vicinity of the bolted connections  $(19, 20)$ .

2. Pusher according to claim 1, **characterized in that** wherein the supporting surfaces are formed by protuberances  $[(34)]$  on the upper member and/or the lower member, which protuberances, at least in the vicinity of the bolted connections  $(19, 20)$ , form a preferably slit-like space  $[(33)]$  between the upper member and the lower member.

3. Pusher according to claim 1  $[[or\ 2]]$ , **characterized in that** wherein the protuberances  $[(34)]$  are provided in the two lateral end portions of the upper member and the lower member.

4. Pusher according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the preferably slit like space  $[(33)]$  extends over a substantial area between the upper member and the lower member, preferably extending essentially over the entire length of the pusher's jointing plane.

5. Pusher according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the protuberances  $[(34)]$  are engineered within the area between the bolted connections ~~(19, 20)~~ provided in both lateral end portions.

6. Pusher according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the protuberances are provided in the vicinity of the centering noses  $[(17)]$ .

7. Pusher according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the protuberances are formed by knuckle-like centering protuberances  $[(30)]$  which are raised in such manner that on tightening of the bolted connections ~~(19, 20)~~, the knuckles  $[(30)]$  abut on the bottom of the complementary recess in the counterpart and the two chain legs ~~(38, 39)~~ are not clamped.

8. Pusher according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ an additional centering knuckle  $[(30)]$  that interacts with a complementary recess  $[(31)]$  is provided at the center of the pusher  $[(10)]$ .

9. Pusher according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the engaging surfaces, or contact surfaces, between the centering nose  $[(17)]$  and the centering recess  $[(26)]$  are formed by the frontal nose surface  $[(35)]$ , the two lateral nose surfaces  $[(41)]$  or the surfaces  $[(35)]$  on either side of and bordering on the recess  $[(26)]$ .

10. Pusher according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the supporting surfaces forming the space  $[(33)]$  are formed by a depression (47) on the bottom of the upper member and/or of the lower member.

11. Pusher according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the chain link is held by friction and positively within the chain bed (~~11, 12~~), there being in this area, i.e. in the jointing plane, a small space between the upper and lower members which permits pretensioning of the two members.

12. Pusher according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the underside of the lower member  $[(16)]$  is provided in the vicinity of its ends with recesses  $[(33)]$  that create a space between each end of the lower member and the base plate  $[(4)]$  of the conveyor.

13. The pusher of claim 12, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the recessed surface of the lower member is flush with the lower surface of the wrap-over ends  $[(22)]$  of the upper member  $[(15)]$ .